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IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME OF ACTION FOR THE THIRD DECADE TO COMBAT RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

Contribution by UNESCO

Introduction

1. With a view to the implementation of General Assembly resolution 48/91 of 20 December 1993 on the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, and in order to respond to the recent wave of racism, the United Nations Educational, Social and Cultural Organization has planned a series of activities for the 1994-1995 biennium relating on the one hand, to research into sources of discrimination and racial, ethnic, national and religious prejudice, etc. and, on the other, the building of a democratic and non-racial society in South Africa.

2. The purpose of this document is to describe the various activities to be conducted in this field and to outline UNESCO's contribution to the building of a new democratic and non-racial society in South Africa.

I. MEASURES TO CURB ALL FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION

3. A series of brochures will be devoted to international instruments against discrimination and racism, namely:

(a) The International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination of 21 December 1965;

(b) The International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid of 30 November 1973;

(c) The International Convention against Apartheid in Sports of 10 December 1985;

(d) The Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women of 18 December 1979;

(e) The Convention against Discrimination in Education of 14 December 1960.

4. These instruments will be widely distributed, not only in UNESCO's official languages but in others as well.

5. Several meetings are planned:

(a) An International Workshop on Discrimination against Foreign Migrants will be held in autumn 1994 in Germany (in cooperation with the German and Turkish National Commissions for UNESCO). A second workshop will be held in late 1994 to explore ways and means of promoting intercultural dialogue;

(b) In 1995, an international workshop will be held on ways of curbing discrimination against minorities and an international meeting of experts will examine the problem of the origins of chauvinism, xenophobia, racism, anti-Semitism and ways to combat them.

6. Lastly, the Director-General will submit to the General Conference (1995) his fifth report on the implementation of the UNESCO Declaration on Race and Racial Prejudice (adopted in 1978).

II. CONTRIBUTION TO THE BUILDING OF A DEMOCRATIC AND NON-RACIAL SOCIETY IN SOUTH AFRICA

7. UNESCO action in this field will concentrate on the following:

(a) Assistance to the democratically-elected Government of South Africa in implementing measures to ensure the building of a democratic and non-racial society (contract with a non-governmental organization to provide instruction in electoral matters, training course for newly-elected members of parliament and human rights workers, granting of scholarships and subsidies);

(b) Dissemination and exchanges of knowledge, through specialized networks, for the purpose of promoting peace, human rights and democracy (publication of the results of research undertaken in 1993, establishment of UNESCO documentation centres and chairs in peace, human rights and democracy);

(c) Preparation of teaching materials for promoting educational activities in the field of human rights and in combating racism, with special emphasis on primary and secondary education;

(d) Training of community leaders with a view to creating an atmosphere of non-violence, tolerance and respect for human rights (project for the rehabilitation of disadvantaged regions);

(e) Helping to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women.

8. As a contribution to studies on the needs of a society freed from apartheid, an international meeting on the role of religions and religious institutions in the suppression of apartheid was organized by UNESCO in cooperation with the World Council of Churches, at Geneva from 23 to 25 November 1991. The results of this meeting were published in 1993.

9. In 1993, with assistance from UNESCO, the Centre for Social and Development Studies of the University of Natal in Durban, South Africa, conducted a study reviewing the information available on the extent of research undertaken and the types of methodologies used to explain ethnicity, the process of becoming aware and their influence on the building of a new democratic society.

10. A UNESCO Workshop to Plan, Design and Implement a Literacy Training Programme for Peri-Urban South African Youth was held at Gaborone from 15 to 26 March 1993.

11. UNESCO participated in an inter-agency consultation in London as part of the preparations for the Conference of Donors in South Africa (September 1994), particularly in the area of education, where it was designated the "lead agency".

12. UNESCO took part in the Culture and Development Conference (CDC) held in Johannesburg from 25 April to 2 May 1993 at the invitation of the African National Congress (ANC). A contract was signed with the Mayibuye Cultural Centre in Cape Town for the publication in South Africa and distribution of the final report of the Conference.

13. UNESCO also sent a mission to South Africa (late November 1993) as part of the follow-up to meetings with ANC and the Pan-Africanist Congress during the General Conference. The mission:

(a) Identified NGOs for launching UNESCO's "voter education" programme;

(b) Collected statistics to be used in preparing a language policy project, in accordance with the resolutions of the Culture and Development Conference;

(c) Met with the authorities responsible for matters relating to museums; a project in the amount of US$ 1,130,000 was prepared and submitted through UNESCO to the United Nations Development Programme for financing.

14. UNESCO has established four university chairs: two at the University of Durban University-Westville (one in engineering and one in the culture of peace), a third in human rights at the University of Forte Hare, and a fourth in science at the University of Cape Town.

15. The Director-General of UNESCO has appointed a special envoy to South Africa, who took up his duties on 1 July 1994.